



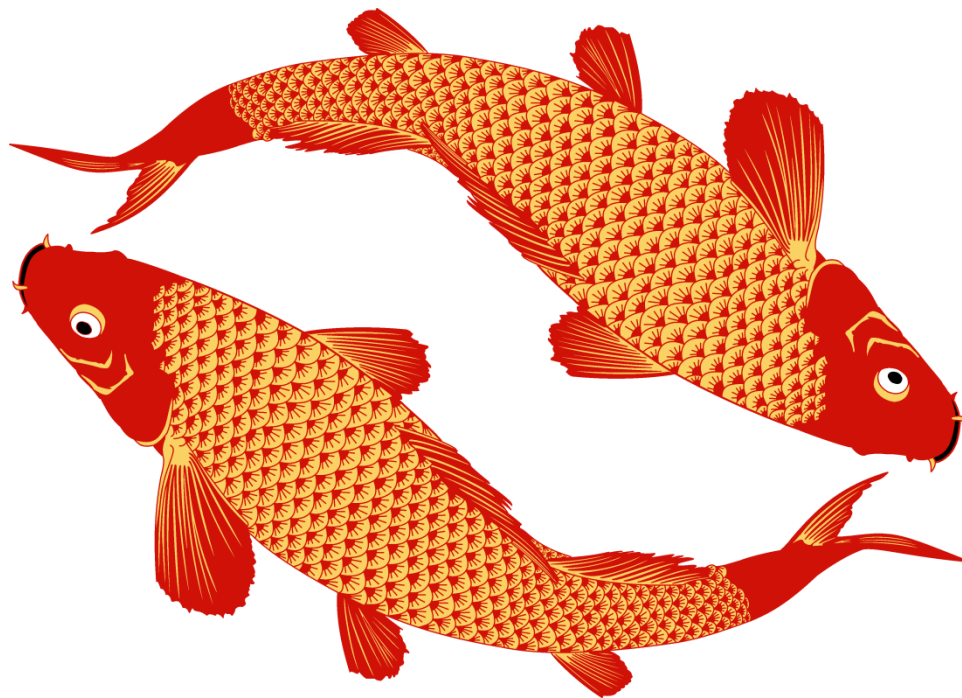
# WORLD WATCH ONE

September 2018

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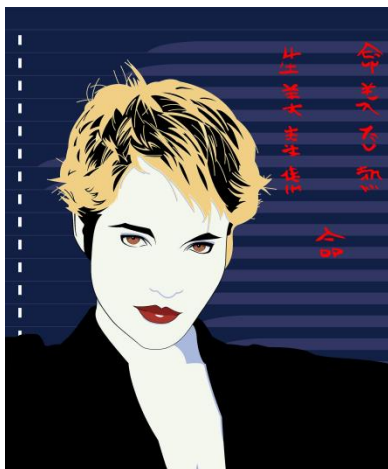
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**Front Cover:** Dan Berger takes on cover duties again this issue with his rendition of Penny Priddy in the style of Patrick Nagel. Nagel’s distinctive look was a defining feature of 1980s iconography, gracing everything from album covers and magazine spreads to print ads and posters. Considering the pop culture vibe of Buckaroo Banzai and the era when it was made, it’s a little astounding that Penny didn’t receive the Nagel treatment sooner.

Questions? Comments? Having trouble with a localized extradimensional incursion? The deuce you say! Contact us at [dan.berger.2@gmail.com](mailto:dan.berger.2@gmail.com).

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## WORLD WATCH ONE

NEWSLETTER OF TEAM BANZAI

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## Ancient Mysteries and New Secrets

When we last checked in with Dr. Banzai in 2016, the SHOUT! Factory Blu-ray of *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai* was landing in the mailboxes of fans across the country. At the same time, news hit social media channels that MGM and the creators of Buckaroo Banzai, Earl Mac Rauch and W. D. Richter, were engaged in a legal dispute over the rights holder status of the Banzai franchise; this after months of talk about a Buckaroo Banzai television series entering development under the stewardship of View Askew creator and fanboy extraordinaire, Kevin Smith.

It's an old story now, a narrative reaching back to the 1980's with the promise of a sequel where Buckaroo and company square off *Against the World Crime League* and on to a pilot script reimagining Team, Banzai in the form of a new series called *Heroes in Trouble*. The 90s brought hope of *Buckaroo Banzai: Ancient Secrets & New Mysteries*, followed by a brief flirtation of a Banzai variety show on SyFy and rumors of a Frank Darabont effort to revive the property in the early aughts, but nothing ever made it through to the other side of the mountain, trapped instead within the psychedelic hellscape of the eighth dimension.

Today is August 29, 2018 and the days of TABB's anniversary month are running short. As I type these words in the Chicago Bureau office after a daylong slog of newsletter layout, I can't help but wonder how it is that Buckaroo managed to keep coming back into the public eye and onto the Hollywood radar with such enduring tenacity and rotten luck for nearly three and a half decades. After exploring Buckaroo's tortured path as a docudrama for the last fourteen years, the ancient mystery of when his next adventure can be told on screen remains as inscrutable as ever.

But with ancient mysteries sometimes come new secrets to be revealed, often at the moment they are needed most, expected least, and furthest from our thoughts. We advise that you, our fellow BBIs, remain vigilant in the days ahead.

This month we celebrate the recent efforts of the World Watch One staff and Blue Blaze Irregulars everywhere, holding their posts across the land from the halls of Comic Con International: San Diego to the digital realms of podcasting with Josh Horowitz and Brett Stillo and beyond. We also extend a warm welcome to our latest contributor, DeWayne Todd, a gatherer of rare and wonderful Banzai collectibles and as sharp a scribe as you are likely to find in these pages. Read more about DeWayne in his interview on page 13 of this issue.

Until next time, look twice, shoot straight, and remember to breathe.

--DB

**Acknowledgements:** Special thanks go to Josh Horowitz, Brett Stillo, DeWayne Todd, and W.D. Richter for being the primary victims of the interview hot seat in this issue. Thanks also to Mike Okuda at the Banzai Institute website and Facebook page for his generous assistance not only to World Watch One, but to Banzai fandom in general. We extend our appreciation to Dan Berger, Matt Haley, and Mike Okuda for creating the graphic elements that appear in this issue. Many thanks to all of our contributors: Dan Berger, Steve Mattsson, Sean Murphy, Scott Tate, and DeWayne Todd. Thanks also go out to Chris "ArcLight" Wike for hosting the newsletter's presence on the interwebs at the [World Watch OnLine library](#).

**Irregular as ever:** Not an issue of World Watch One seems to go by without hearing the "whoosh" of a self-imposed deadline zooming past us on the opposing lanes of the publication highway. This issue was supposed to be a July release that very nearly was an August release that ended up being a September release. A few lessons to take away from this phenomenon: 1) Trying to publish a fanzine in summer is a fool's errand, 2) Priorities matter, and unpaid side-work tends to sink down the priority list in a hurry, 3) The newsletter tends to happen when it happens, intentions be damned. We promise to do better next time.

**This issue's Blue Blaze Irregular of the month award** goes to Steve Mattsson once again for damn near writing enough material for a single newsletter on his own. If Steve's not careful, I'm going to retire and let him take the reins so I have enough time to write articles for World Watch One again.

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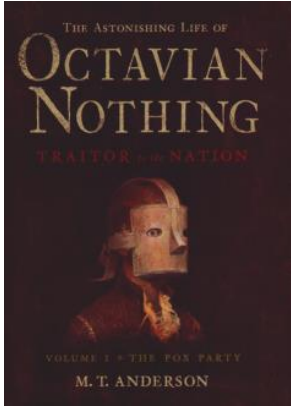
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**Submissions** to World Watch One are strongly encouraged. Really. I am dead serious. We are particularly interested in contributors who are not Caucasian, male, and middle-aged, but all are welcome; white males included. Please contact us at [dan.berger.2@gmail.com](mailto:dan.berger.2@gmail.com) for details.



## The Strange Case of Mr. Richter's Missing IMDB Credits

By Steve Mattsson



[The Internet Movie Database](#) lists *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai* and *Late for Dinner* as W.D. Richter's only directing credits. It lists nothing for him as an actor. IMDB is incomplete. In 2010 Richter shot and directed a book trailer for M.T. Anderson's *Norumbegan Quartet*. Anderson won a 2009 National Book Award for *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation*

*Volume I: the Pox Party* and *Octavian Nation Volume II: The Kingdom of the Waves* was named a Printz Honor Book in 2009. The story in the trailer is told through the point of view of "Rick, the cinematographer", who isn't seen, but is played by Richter. Check it out [here](#) and then return for the interview.

**Steve Mattsson:** How did you meet M.T. Anderson?

**W.D. Richter:** One day I was in The Norwich Bookstore, a friend's small shop near Dartmouth. I was drawn across the room to a great, strange cover.

I bought the book, consumed it, and thought it would make a great movie (and still do). My agent tracked M.T. (Tobin) Anderson down. He lived both in Cambridge, MA, and Vermont. Turns out he saw BB as a kid with his buddies. "It rocked," he told me. Tobin is now a dear friend, whip-smart, funny in a lovely absurdist manner. Years before *Octavian*, he wrote a book called *Feed* that I adapted for him on spec. Alas, we never got it off the ground. Take note of the ancient face carved in the rock near the waterfall in the video. Tobin and I did that, taking turns perching on a slender ledge. It's a joke that will take a century or three to play out when somebody finds it deep in the woods and tries to figure out what manner of people roamed Vermont a thousand years ago.

**Steve:** How does a project like a book trailer for the *Norumbegan Quartet* come together?

**W.D.:** Tobin's publisher agreed to commission him to make a book promo. I thought it would be fun to help him make it. It's shot on a little Canon video camera about the size of a burrito. I wanted to see if I could learn how to use the editing program, iMovie, that comes loaded onto iMacs.

**Steve:** Who wrote the trailer W.D. or M.T.?

**W.D.:** He wrote the brief script, but I improvised all my own lines!

**Steve:** Have you read H.P. Lovecraft's short story "The Festival"?

**W.D.:** Nope, have not.

**Steve:** The trailer had a similar vibe and Lovecraft used his first two initials as part of his professional name—coincidence?

**W.D.:** A trick question if I ever read one. Have you noticed that Mac's email name is "E.M. Rauch"?

**Steve:** Curiouser and curiouser. Is M.T. Anderson difficult to direct?

**W.D.:** I'll only say that he's quite tall.

**Steve:** I googled Mt. Norumbega near Gergenfield, Vermont and came up with nothing. What veil did you need to pierce to gain access to that location? How difficult is the permitting process for something like that?

**W.D.:** It was a lawless enterprise, shot partially on our property—the waterfall and the wooded hillsides, the "underground" medieval chamber—and partially in locations around Montpelier, Vermont that Tobin had fallen in love with—the canyon, the interior of an old stone tower.

**Steve:** I was rooting for the "Rick, the cinematographer" character. I'd call him plucky, if I knew what that meant. What does plucky mean?

**W.D.:** An old farmer once said to me, "That rhinoceros over there is one plucky fella, and by that I mean he shows determined courage in the face of adversity."

**Steve:** Thanks. And finally, what does Elvin face pastry taste like?

**W.D.:** I believe it's an "Elfin"\* face pastry. Tobin brought it and stuck two forks in it for our wrap party. It tasted pretty much like a Lectriod sub. 🐉



\*Fun fact: You can have long debates on the internet with Tolkien nerds over "Elven" vs. "Elfin". True story.

## Interview: Josh Horowitz & Brett Stillo

### The Five Minutes of Banzai Podcast

By Sean Murphy

Where can you find over 24 hours of discussion about *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension*? At the **Five Minutes of Banzai Podcast**, of course.

I was introduced to the [Five Minutes of Banzai](#) podcast when Josh Horowitz and Brett Stillo reached out to me, in November of 2017, while they were getting their podcast up and running. They asked if I'd be interested in joining the podcast as a special guest for an episode since I ran the Buckaroo Banzai FAQ. I immediately said yes. I'd never done a podcast before, and I'm always ready to talk about the good doctor.

I appeared in the second episode and had a great time. There are many interesting guests during the run of the podcast, including Billy Vera and Michael Boddicker. The podcast just recently wrapped up the final episode, which guest starred our own World Watch One newsletter editor Dan Berger and contributor Steve Mattsson. (*Editor's Note: It was a hoot.*)

I asked if Josh and Brett would be open to doing an interview for the newsletter and they graciously agreed.

**Sean Murphy:** Can you explain the Five (or One) minute movie podcast concept for anyone who hasn't encountered it before?

**Brett Stillo:** The "Movies by Minute" podcast format allows you do just that: break down the narrative action of a film, one minute at a time, to analyze and discuss it. Sounds kinda nuts, right? But if you think about all the elements that create a single moment of film—lighting, wardrobe, music, set design, dialog, direction, etc.—suddenly you find you have quite a bit to talk about.

There is a whole community of podcasters out there recording shows dedicated to beloved films: *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *The Lord of the Ring*. The list gets bigger every day.

Josh and I were eager to get into the mix and do a movie minute podcast, but we couldn't see ourselves producing a daily episode, so we came up with a sort of "digest format" where we cover five minutes of a movie per episode.

**Josh Horowitz:** Brett summarized it pretty well. You can find links to all the Movies by Minutes podcasts out there at [www.moviesbyminutes.com](http://www.moviesbyminutes.com)

**Sean:** Tell us a little about yourselves and how you started working together.

**Brett:** Josh and I were introduced to each other through our mutual friend, Pete Mummert of [The Indiana Jones Minute](#).



**Pod people:** Josh Horowitz (L) and Brett Stillo (R) of the Five Minutes of Banzai Podcast.

Josh was looking for a co-host for his podcast; Pete was looking for a way to keep me out of trouble.

And speaking of trouble, our first podcast series was [Five Minutes of Trouble](#), which focused on John Carpenter's *Big Trouble in Little China*. We initially traded e-mails to discuss the project. The first time we actually spoke to each other was a phone call on July 1st, 2016, the 30th anniversary of the release of *Big Trouble in Little China*. Neither of us realized that during the call, but in retrospect, I think it was our destiny to work together.

**Josh:** I had been listening to [The Star Wars Minute](#) podcast on my commutes to work back in 2015, and they mentioned that another group of guys were doing a similar Movies by Minutes treatment of the Indiana Jones films. Around that time I attended a screening of the [Raiders! documentary](#) film (about the kids who reenacted *Raiders of the Lost Ark* using camcorders during the 80s) and contacted the [Indiana Jones Minute](#) Guys in Facebook about having the Raiders Guys on their show. Pete Mummert wrote me back, and after chatting back and forth, I mentioned wanting to do a Movies by Minutes podcast for my favorite film, *Big Trouble in Little China*. Pete got me in touch with his friend Brett, who he said was a huge fan of the film, and soon we got [Five Minutes of Trouble](#) and the Podcast Express rolling.

Outside of podcasting I'm a producer/project manager for a digital marketing company in Hollywood, and do voiceover work on the side.

**Sean:** What drew you to doing the Five Minutes of Banzai Podcast? How did the podcast come about/get started?

**Brett:** I think I've always felt that *Big Trouble in Little China* and *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai* had some sort of unspoken connection with each other in terms of theme and tone. I'm not sure when exactly I learned that W.D. Richter was involved in both productions, but there you go. Somehow,

somewhere in an alternate Universe, these two movies are neighbors.

As we were wrapping up the Trouble podcast, we started to chat about what we might do next. I think I initially suggested Banzai. Between the two of us, I was the bigger fan of Banzai, but in the months that led up to the podcast, Josh re-watched the film and found a new appreciation for it.

**Josh:** I have been running the [Wing Kong Exchange](#), a site devoted to John Carpenter's *Big Trouble in Little China*, for more than 20 years. During that time, I swapped links with the Banzai Institute and remember getting a mention in one of the Institute's newsletters. I knew about that film's tie-in with Rick Richter (who directed BB and penned BTLC), and how Ernest Cline brought Jack Burton into Buckaroo's sphere through his [fan-script sequel](#). It seemed to be a natural choice for a "sequel" to our [Five Minutes of Trouble](#) podcast, though I had only seen Buckaroo Banzai once or twice and didn't quite appreciate it at the time.

Needless to say after discussing the film for more than 20 hours, I've really come to appreciate it and its cult status.

**Sean:** How do you prepare for the podcast? What are some of the things needed to do a successful podcast?

**Brett:** There is a lot of that goes into each episode of Five Minutes of Banzai. The film has been broken up into approximately 21 five-minute video files. We will watch each clip, over and over and over and over, take a lot of notes, and do quite a bit of background research. There's also the scheduling of guests, which can be challenging, and editing the audio files afterwards to prepare it for release on the InterWebz.

**Josh:** To prepare for an episode, I usually watch each five minute clip and closely scrutinize it as much as possible. I end up writing notes about interesting plot points and pointing out things you usually don't notice on casual viewing, such as John Parker's unique walking style during the assault on Yoyodyne, or the framed photograph of Dr. Lizardo (complete with viewing light) on the Panther Ship's thermopod. I also like to do research on actors featured during the minutes (what would we do without IMDB?) and other interesting minutiae. The DVD/Blu-Ray commentary and documentaries have been super helpful in the production backstories as well.

As far as being successful... getting good guests on the show really helps make the episodes entertaining, but getting an audience itself is probably the biggest marker of success. We have it tougher than most of the daily Movies by Minutes

podcasts in that we only launch once a week for 20+ episodes, while they launch every day (or so) over 90+ episodes. By the time we really start establishing an audience, we're already done with the film. So word of mouth (and being on other podcasts and getting the word out about Five Minutes of Banzai) really helps.

**Sean:** Can you talk about the guest stars on the podcast? Do all minute podcasts have guest stars? Were there any that you wanted to have on the podcast but couldn't?

**Josh:** We've been fortunate to have some great guests on [Five Minutes of Banzai](#), mostly from the greater podcasting (and Movies by Minutes) community, but also some Banzai cast and crew. Billy Vera (Pinky Carruthers) was one of our first guests, and it was great talking to him and hearing all the wonderful stories about his life, Hollywood, music, and his role in the film.

Near the end we got BB composer Michael Boddicker to be on the show, which was also a treat.

Most Movies by Minutes podcasts will have guests on their show. Jim O'Kane's [Rocketeer Minute](#) podcast even got Billy Campbell (who played the Rocketeer in the film) to not only guest on episodes, but return numerous times in an almost co-host capacity!

I personally met with Jeff Goldblum (New Jersey) at a jazz club before we launched the podcast and tried to entice him to guest on the show, but alas. It would be great to get Kevin Smith on the show as well. We may do guest

interviews even after we're done with the minutes, so anything is possible.

**Brett:** My favorite thing about podcasting is the guests. It's a lot of fun to meet and interact with these friendly, enthusiastic voices coming from all over the world to talk about a shared interest. It's been a thrill to get the opportunity to talk with people like Billy Vera and Michael Boddiker, but it really goes for everyone we've had on the show as well. I can happily report that everyone I've met in the Movies by Minute community has been a really cool person.

**Sean:** What has the Buckaroo Banzai fan interaction been like?

**Josh:** We've had a Facebook group up since the podcast launched called the [Five Minutes of Banzai Bunkhouse](#) and many BB fans have flocked in, commenting on episodes, or even providing interesting lobby card photos accompanying the minutes. They are a passionate bunch, and we were happy to have one of them on our show as a guest for an episode.

*I think I've always felt that **Big Trouble in Little China** and **The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai** had some sort of unspoken connection with each other in terms of theme and tone... Somehow, somewhere in an alternate Universe, these two movies are neighbors.*





**Brett:** After 35 years, the fan dedication is pretty amazing, especially when you consider that aside from the comics and the recent Blu-ray, there hasn't been much in the way of new Banzai material. It's really a testimony to the strange charisma of this film and its central character. Buckaroo abides!

**Sean:** What interesting things did you learn about Buckaroo Banzai during the podcast journey?

**Josh:** I definitely learned to appreciate the film more. Doing the podcast got me to read the novel by Earl Mac Rauch, and that certainly opened me up to the greater world of Buckaroo Banzai beyond the events depicted in the film. That Buckaroo and the Institute had the precursors to the cell-phone technology back in the 80s that we take for granted today was eye-opening.

I think overall I saw just how much of a labor of love the film was, despite the numerous budgetary and management hardships associated with it. It's got some wacky performances, memorable lines and scenes, and fun homages to classic sci-fi I never really caught the first time.

Oh, and I'll never think of a Thermopod the same after doing this podcast. It's not just a pod... it's a mark of quality!

**Brett:** I wasn't aware of the strife W.D. Richter faced from the studio during the production. The film itself projects this aura that everybody is cool, going with the flow of Buckaroo's world. "No matter where you go..." right? Yet, you have the presence of David Begelman threatening to shut down the production, day in and day out. I have to wonder...what was Begelman's status in the World Crime League?

**Sean:** What do you think of the docudrama now that you've been living with it so closely over the last several months?

**Josh:** It's truly a part of film history. I'm glad to say I've moved into the ranks of people who see the film often enough to "get it." I also have more of an appreciation for the folks who have kept the fires burning for this film for so many years (including the World Watch One newsletter!). It's great that there's such a dedicated fan base for Buckaroo and his adventures nearly thirty-five years later.

**Brett:** I love this just as much as when I saw it at the Lark Theater in sleepy little Larkspur, California in the fall of '84.

However, after deconstructing and analyzing it in 5-minute chunks for 10 months, it's going to be interesting when I try to watch the movie in uninterrupted entirety.

**Sean:** What are you working on next?

**Josh:** While Brett and I have discussed what film to cover next, we're probably going to take a hiatus from Minute podcasting together for a while after this one wraps. Brett and I still get chances to collaborate on the other podcast we're a part of, though: [Twelve Chimes It's Midnight](#). It's an Old Time Radio-style podcast with original stories, full casts, sound effects and music, all inspired by shows like the *Twilight Zone*, *Lights Out*, and *Suspense*.

Beyond that, I continue to audition for voiceovers on the side and narrate audiobooks. You can find my site at [www.joshhorowitz.com](http://www.joshhorowitz.com).

**Brett:** Jeez, what do you do after Buckaroo? Hard act to follow! I'm not exactly sure what Josh and I are going to do next either, but we enjoy this creative partnership we have developed. Whatever we do next, I'm already looking forward to it.

Shameless self promotion time. I did a short film a year ago called [Swing Shift](#). It did pretty well on the Festival circuit. While it has no direct connection to the world of Dr. Banzai, it definitely has both feet firmly planted in the world of classic Pulp. I'm hoping to do a few more quickie flicks in this style. 🐾



You can check out Five Minutes of Banzai [at their website](#), the [Five Minutes of Banzai Bunkhouse](#) on Facebook, or [@5minutesbanzai](#) on Twitter.

## From Black Lectroid to Green Martian:

### Carl Lumbly's Alien Body of Work

By Scott Tate

Carl Lumbly is no stranger to playing aliens, although he didn't start out that way. His screen career began with minor roles ranging from a prison inmate (*Escape from Alcatraz*, 1979) to a caveman named Bork (*Caveman*, 1981). He soon scored a regular gig on television as police detective Marcus Petrie in *Cagney & Lacey* (1982-88). It was during that span that he moonlighted as an alien for the first time as the helpful Black Lectroid John Parker in *TABB* (1984). But John Parker wouldn't be the last alien in Lumbly's career, or even the one he would become most associated with portraying.

Lumbly's next turn as an alien came in an episode of *Superman: The Animated Series*. In "Absolute Power" (1999), a pair of Superman's enemies conquer a distant Earth-like planet, where one of their enforcers is a native named Alterus (Lumbly). Alterus looked human, as did John Parker some of the time, but that and Lumbly's rich voice were the only traits the compassionate Parker shared with the cruel Alterus. (Incidentally, Lumbly also voiced an earlier role on *S:TAS*, albeit a human one as the mayor of Metropolis in "Speed Demons," 1997).

But by far the alien performance most associated with Lumbly and most widely beloved by viewers is a much higher profile character from the DC universe, the Martian Manhunter. J'onn J'onzz originated in *Detective Comics* #255 way back in 1955 and was a founding member when the Justice League formed in 1960. Unlike many of his peers, he didn't get a lot of love from other media for a long time. Numerous television and film projects were based on various comic book characters in the decades following J'onn's debut, but for a long time the Martian Manhunter wasn't among their ranks. He almost made it to TV in 1997, in a live-action portrayal by David Ogden Stiers of all people, in a pilot movie for a possible Justice League series. The pilot never aired, but it gained a degree of notoriety among those who have sought out bootleg viewings.

More than 45 years after the character's debut, Lumbly pioneered J'onn's first successful adaptation into television by voicing him in animated form. The Martian Manhunter appeared regularly on *Justice League* (2001-2004), and Lumbly stuck with it when the series morphed into *Justice League Unlimited* (2004-2006). Lumbly reprised J'onn in the direct-to-home movie *Justice League: Doom* (2012) even though that story takes place in a different continuity than the previous JL animated shows. *Doom* also doubles up on its Lumbly quotient by having him voice J'onn's villainous brother Ma'alefa'ak. He also did voice work as the Martian Manhunter in the video game *Injustice: Gods Among Us* (2013).

Following Martian Manhunter's TV debut in 2001, the character proved to be a popular one, going on to appear in several other



**Otherworldly performances:** Carl Lumbly as M'yrnn J'onzz (L) ([Warner Bros. Television](#)) and Lumbly's animated avatar, the Martian Manhunter (R) ([Warner Bros. Animation](#)).

shows, direct-to-home movies, and video games, performed in live action and voiced in animation by a variety of talented actors.

Particularly notable is Dorian Harewood, who voiced the Martian Manhunter as a guest star in a handful of episodes in 2007-2008 for the animated series *The Batman*. He then went on to serve as a live-action MM, a regularly featured cast member of the ongoing *Supergirl* television series. And as for Lumbly? That's where the circle comes around on itself. In *Supergirl's* third season, Harewood's version of J'onn was joined on the show by his father, M'yrnn J'onzz... played by Lumbly in a recurring guest role as an homage to his earlier connection to the character. M'yrnn appears in roughly half of the episodes of the 2017-2018 season.

Lumbly has appeared in several other sci-fi and superheroic roles over the years. In *Lifepod* (1981), he's a reporter aboard a disastrous spaceliner in the year 2191. He portrays real-life 19<sup>th</sup>-century slave-turned-carpenter Denmark Vesey in a story about a time-traveling teenager, *Brother Future* (1991). He starred as a technological superhero in the live-action *M.A.N.T.I.S.* (1994). He's a victim of the monster of the week in an episode of *The X-Files* ("Teliko," 1996). He voiced a hero modeled after the trickster spider god Anansi in two episodes of the animated *Static Shock* (2003's "Static in Africa" and 2004's "Out of Africa"), which shared the same extended continuity as Lumbly's *S:TAS* and *JL/JLU* performances. In fact, Lumbly's Manhunter also visited Static ("A League of Their Own," 2003). Lumbly had a featured guest spot on *Battlestar Galactica* ("Hero," 2006). And he is one of Black Panther's ancestral predecessors, not in Marvel's 2018 live-action film but in a 2010 animated TV version.

From Planet 10 to Mars and beyond, Carl Lumbly's star continues to rise. Recently he's been at work writing a one-man show in which he intends to portray outspoken novelist/essayist James Baldwin – a decidedly down-to-earth role, but sure to be another stellar performance. 🐾



## Buckaroo Banzai and The Celebrity Scientist Squad

By Steve Mattsson

Of course it started with Mr. Wizard, but Buckaroo Banzai took the field of Science Communication to a new level in 1984 during the infamous Jet Car news conference. Since then, Carl Sagan, Stephen Hawking, Bill Nye the Science Guy, and Neil deGrasse Tyson have also carried the torch, but there is still much work to be done.

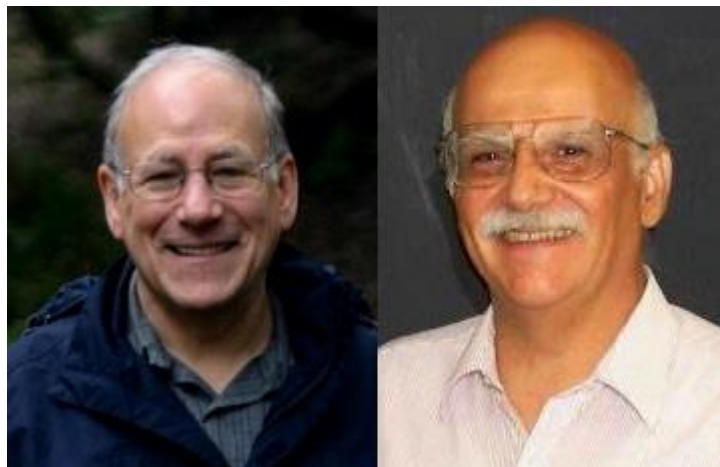
In all fields of science, advancements occur in a collaborative environment and after decades of research. In 1984 Dr. Cary I. Snieder worked as a science consultant for both 20th Century Fox and the Banzai Institute. Dr. Snieder was tasked with making the complex scientific concepts portrayed in the film *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai* understandable to the movie-going public. After consulting with his colleague, Dr. Joseph Bisognano, Dr. Snieder wrote the paper, [“MOVING THROUGH MATTER ‘Buckaroo Banzai’ Creates a New Dimension in Science Fiction”](#). Recently, Dr. Snieder consented to answer a few questions on the current state of Science Communication and Theoretical Particle Physics.

**Steve Mattsson:** You originally studied astronomy, but have spent most of your career in the field of Science Education and Science Communication. Traditionally, scientists have had difficulty explaining complex concepts to the general public. How are the fields of Science Education and Science Communication addressing this?

**Dr. Cary I. Snieder:** **Science Communication** - Recognizing the importance of a supportive public, many scientists and engineers are “going back to school” to learn how to communicate their work to the general public. Some museums and science centers, like the Museum of Science in Boston (where I used to work) coach scientists and engineers before they go “on stage,” and help them prepare slides and props to improve their abilities to communicate. The Museum of Science (and several others across the country) uses a variety of means, including live presentations and plays to engage their



**For science!:** Bill Nye (L) and Neil deGrasse Tyson (R) continue to promote science literacy as prominent media personalities. [\(Slash Film\)](#)



**The doctors are in:** Dr. Cary I. Snieder (L) and Dr. Joseph Bisognano (R), authors of “Moving Through Matter.”

audiences in discussing scientific issues, such as what to do about human-induced climate change, and the pros and cons of cloning pets (or people).

**Science Education** - The field of science education generally refers to teaching science in schools and through afterschool and summer programs. There are hundreds (and possibly thousands) of researchers (including me!) who work to determine the most effective ways of communicating key concepts and helping youth develop skills in scientific thinking and engineering problem solving. Colleges and universities apply the results of this research in preparing tomorrow’s teachers.

**Steve:** There is push back from some quarters against commentators like Neil deGrasse Tyson and Bill Nye, claiming that, “They are just media personalities and not scientists.” What is your take on this?

**Dr. Snieder:** The world needs more people like Neil Tyson and Bill Nye who have a deep understanding of science and a talent for not only communicating scientific information, but also for helping people understand why it is important for everyone to be scientifically and technologically literate. The extent of scientific illiteracy in this country is not only shameful; it is also a danger to our children and grandchildren who will—if we are not careful—inheriting a world that will have far less biodiversity, more ferocious storms and wildfires, and less capacity to support a growing world population.

**Steve:** Bobak Ferdowsi (Mohawk Guy), a systems engineer at JPL, and Dr. Matt Taylor (Tattoo Guy), an astrophysicist at the ESA, caught the interest of the internet during the Curiosity and Rosetta missions. Did their non-traditional appearance help recruit a wider variety of young people into the STEM fields?

**Dr. Snieder:** I don’t doubt it! So many kids and adults have stereotypical views of who scientists and engineers are that anything we can do to dispel those notions the better. Role models are especially effective at communicating the idea that anyone can become a scientist or engineer, and still be cool!



**Perfectly engineered hair:** Systems engineer **Bobak Ferdowsi**, enjoying his work at JPL. ([NASA](#))

**Steve:** You have been involved in programs that teach science through science fiction, other than *Buckaroo Banzai*, what other science fiction films have done a good job of portraying science accurately?

**Dr. Sneider:** *The Martian*, starring Matt Damon, comes to mind. It is carefully crafted to be scientifically accurate and an edge-of-your-seat adventure. Of course, there are many more!

**Steve:** Your article “Moving through Matter with Buckaroo Banzai” was written in 1984. In it you mention that the mechanism of “spontaneous symmetry breaking” was poorly understood. Has any progress been made during the intervening years with this concept? Have any new models emerged to supplant the theories from that time?

**Dr. Sneider:** I’m passing this question to my good friend (and college roommate) Joe Bisognano, who pursued high energy particle physics (like Buckaroo Banzai), rather than science education. Here’s his answer:

**Dr. Bisognano:** The simplest statement is that the discovery of the Higgs Boson in 2012 firmly established that the spontaneous symmetry breaking concept for unification of electromagnetism and the weak interaction makes sense. It gives the W and Z bosons mass while photons stay massless, with the accompanying short and long range of the forces, respectively, as described in our paper

**Steve:** Your article reads like it was written based on the screenplay for Buckaroo Banzai rather than the film itself. What did you think of the movie once you saw it?

**Dr. Sneider:** I loved it! I can see why it became a hit.

**Steve:** Buckaroo Banzai plays lead guitar for the Hong Kong Cavilers and has a PhD in biomedical engineering. Dr. Banzai is also the archenemy of the World Crime League. Dr. Brian May



**Space Gods:** Dr. Brian May of Queen (L) and mission scientist Dr. Matt Taylor (R) celebrate receiving the Spirit Award at the 2015 Metal Hammer Golden Gods event in London, UK. ([YouTube](#))

plays lead guitar for Queen and has a PhD in astrophysics. Is it possible that Dr. May secretly fights crime as well?

**Dr. Sneider:** I would not be at all surprised. A deep science background is a big advantage when it comes to outsmarting criminals, and music is a great cover. 🦋

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### **Cary I. Sneider, Ph.D. Science Education**

*Visiting Scholar at Portland State University*

Dr. Sneider received an undergraduate degree in astronomy from Harvard and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkley. He is a consultant for charitable foundations that are working to solve environmental and educational problems. He is also a member of the National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as “The Nation’s Report Card.”

### **Joseph Bisognano Ph.D. Physics**

*Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin, Madison*

Dr. Bisognano received an undergraduate degree in physics from Harvard and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkley. Most his career he worked on the design and building of large particle accelerators, but his Ph.D. and earliest work was in theoretical particle physics.

Both continue their work as consultants for the Banzai Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Strategic Information.



## **Lizardo's Overthruster Was More Powerful Than Banzai's — Believe It!**

By Tim "Tim Boo Ba" Monro

*"...provide me with the crucial missing circuit!"*

—Lord John Whorfin

*"We haven't a chance! Your Overthruster's for shit!"*

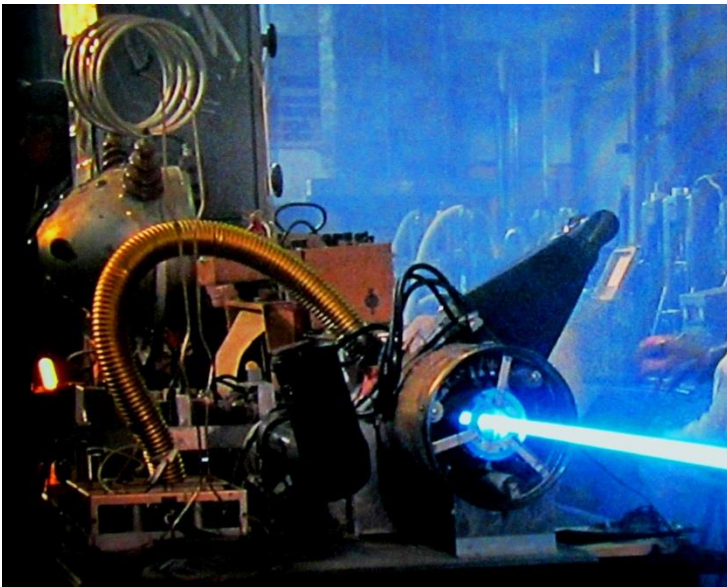
—John Bigbooté

*"If he can't connect the dots, they'll never penetrate."*

—Buckaroo Banzai

Brave Buckaroo wouldn't provide wicked Whorfin with the missing circuit, so the Lectroid Lord couldn't use his Overthruster to return to the 8th-dimension. The World was saved from nuclear annihilation, but was Lizardo's Overthruster really "for shit?" Let's saunter through some Overthruster history to find out.

### **October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1938 E. Lizardo/T. Hikita Overthruster**



The original Overthruster was designed for low speed matter penetration. Lizardo's leap from the moving cart probably didn't result in a velocity greater than 20 miles per hour. Dr. Lizardo's torso easily penetrated the wall and into the 8th-dimension. The Overthruster was plenty powerful enough to keep the portal open long enough for the lab-techs to pull the rest of Lizardo back into our dimension. Lizardo wouldn't have gotten stuck if his head hadn't partially penetrated Lord John Whorfin's skull. The Overthruster influenced impact caused their two brains to merge. The failure of the experiment was caused by this tragic coincidence and not due to a malfunction of the '38 Overthruster.

### **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1938 E. Lizardo/T. Hikita Overthruster**

At some time between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> Lizardo, controlled by Whorfin, returned to the lab at Princeton University and

stole the Overthruster. He took it less than four miles southeast to Grover's Mill, NJ. On Halloween 1938, a mysterious "electro-dimensional accident" occurred. This was caused by Lord Whorfin using the Overthruster to break open the barrier into the 8<sup>th</sup>-dimension. He was able to open a portal large enough and keep it open long enough to bring dozens of Red Lectoids to Earth. In an effort to rescue as many of his trapped comrades as possible, Whorfin pushed the Overthruster beyond its operational limits. This caused a crucial circuit to fail and the explosion of the Overthruster.

### **1955 M. Banzai/T. Hikita Overthruster**

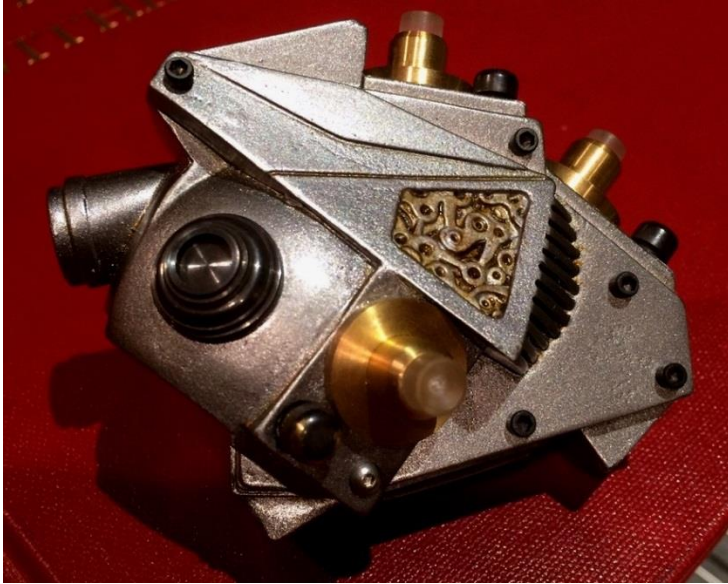


The '55 M. Banzai/T. Hikita Overthruster was a much less powerful device. It wasn't designed to hold the interdimensional portal open for long, so high speed penetration was needed. Masado Banzai's 1955 jetcar was built from the surplus cockpit and engine of a British de Havilland DH 100 "Vampire" jetfighter. Its top speed in the air was 548 mph. The top speed on the ground for the '55 jetcar would have been less, but it would've been much faster than Lizardo's leap from his wicker cart. We don't know if this version of the Overthruster would have worked because a crude incendiary device destroyed it and the '55 jetcar before they could prove their mettle.

### **'80s B. Banzai/T. Hikita Overthruster**

Buckaroo Banzai's and Professor Hikita's famous '80s Overthruster was the least robust of them all. We know this from the scientific paper, "Moving through Matter with Buckaroo Banzai" by Dr. Cary I. Sneider. A segment of the paper reads, "When focused on solid matter, the beam [from the Overthruster] produces a small region of high energy density. Inside the target, spontaneous symmetry breaking imparts mass to the photons, reducing the range of the electromagnetic force to far less than a quadrillionth of a centimeter. From this small region a shock wave of broken





symmetry propagates outward. Behind the shock wave, matter interacts only weakly. **The car must travel very fast (at least 700 miles per hour) to allow free passage before the material reverts to its normal state.**” (emphasis mine). The Lizardo Overthruster had no trouble maintaining the spontaneous symmetry breaking long enough for multiple bipeds to walk through solid matter. Buckaroo gets all the credit, but he was clearly standing on the shoulders of giants.

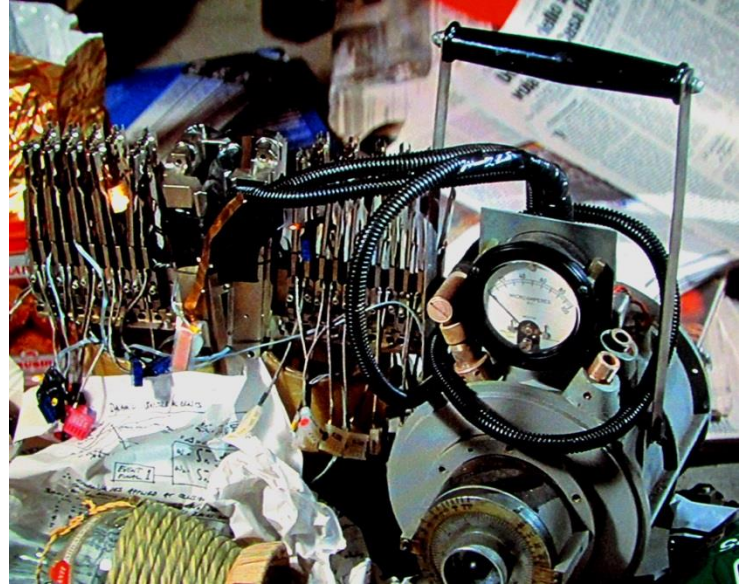
#### **‘80s E. Lizardo/J.Whorfin Overthruster**

Lizardo/Whorfin spent almost forty-five years in the Trenton Home for the Criminally Insane trying to rebuild the Overthruster from cannibalized parts. Whorfin forced Lizardo to build the Overthruster and because they shared a brain Lizardo could not hide information from him. Luckily, it was probably Professor Hikita who designed the crucial circuit that failed during Halloween of 1938, so Whorfin didn’t have direct access to its specifications. The film version of “Buckaroo Banzai” gives the impression that the Lizardo/Whorfin Overthruster was for shit, but was that the filmmakers’ intention? This is from the optical effect to-do list for the film:

#### **“BUCKAROO BANZAI” OPTICAL SEQUENCES (CONTINUED)**

13. LIZARDO HANGER
  - A. ROTO OVERTHRUSTER BEAM\*
  - B. ROTO WALL OOZING
  - C. HINTS OF 8<sup>TH</sup> DIMENSION THROUGH WALL

Shots 13B and 13C didn’t make it into the movie. Shot 13B would have been matched with the Yoyodyne lab-tech’s line, “The wall is softening.” Shot 13C would have followed immediately when Buckaroo said, “Oh no!” Lizardo’s



Overthruster, cobbled together from surplus parts, almost worked even without Hikita’s crucial missing circuit.

Back in the day, Dr. Lizardo earned the nickname “Ninestein” because he was nine times smarter than Einstein. His Overthruster wasn’t “for shit”. It worked perfectly almost forty-five years before Buckaroo’s. It was also strong enough to maintain the shock wave of broken symmetry long enough that Lizardo didn’t need a jetcar to travel through matter. The real question is—was Lizardo smart enough to recreate Hikita’s circuit or did he choose not to in heroic defiance of Lord Whorfin? Perhaps Dr. Emilio Lizardo was the unsung hero of the adventure across the 8<sup>th</sup>-dimension. 🐉

*“Emilio Lizardo is a top scientist. Dummkopf.”*

—Reno of Memphis



\*“Roto” is an abbreviation for rotoscoping, a process that uses individual frames of live action film as reference to create realistic animation and composite film sequences.

**Editor’s Note:** *The full contents of the optical effects “to do list” for **The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai** have been included for reference in the two pages following this article.*



"BUCKAROO BANZAI" OPTICAL SEQUENCES

1. JETCAR SEQUENCES
  - A. ROTO OVERTHRUSTER BEAM
  - B. 8TH DEMENSION
  - C. ROTO OF MOUNTAIN EXIT
2. HOSPITAL FOR CRIMINALLY INSANE #1
  - A. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE ANIMATION ON LIZARDO
3. 1938 FLASHBACK SEQUENCE
  - A. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE ANIMATION ON LIZARDO CHAIR
  - B. 8TH DEMENSION THRU MICROSCOPE MATTE
  - C. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE ANIMATION ON LIZRDO WITHDRAWL
4. HOSPITAL FOR CRIMINALLY INSANE #2
  - A. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE AS LIZARDO ZAPS VIDEO GAME
5. CONFERENCE #1
  - A. 8TH DIMENSION SLIDE
6. OUTER SPACE SEQUENCE #1
  - A. ALIEN FATHERSHIP IN SPACE PASSES SATELLITE TO SHOW SCALE.
7. CONFERENCE #2
  - A. BUCKAROO SHOCKED IN TELEPHONE BOOTH
8. OUTER SPACE #2
  - A. FATHERSHIP OVER EARTH DISCHARGES THERMOPOD
9. THERMOPOD SEQUENCE
  - A. DROPS IN AND PASSES TO CAMERA LEFT BEHIND BUCKAROO
  - B. RISES OVER HILL AND TREE AND DROPS DOWN OVER HUNTERS
  - C. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE EFFECT - SWISS ARMY LIGHTER
  - D. " " - BUCKAROO AND HIKITA
  - E. " " - BUCKAROO AND CASPER
10. BUCKAROO AND PENNY #1
  - A. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE OFF FINGERS
11. SHOCK TOWER
  - A. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE OFF ELECTRODES
  - B. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE ON ALL OF BUCKAROO
12. BUCKAROO AND NEW JERSEY
  - A. ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE EFFECT

(CONTINUED)



PAG

"BUCKAROO BANZAI" OPTICAL SEQUENCES (CONTINUED)

13. LIZARDO HANGER
  - A. ROTO OVERTHRUSTER BEAM
  - B. ROTO WALL OOZING
  - C. HINTS OF 8TH DIMENSION THROUGH WALL
  
14. LIZARDO SHIP AND DOGFIGHT
  - A. LIZARDO SHIP BLASTS THROUGH WALL
  - B. FLIES UP AND OVER CITY
  - C. SMALL POD DISGORGED
  - D. SMALL POD TRIES TO FLY
  - E. NEAR COLLISION WITH BIG SHIP
  - F. DOGFIGHT
  - G. SKY EXPLODING
  - I. PARACHUTE AND SKY WITH SMALL POD
  
15. FINAL KISS
  - A. PENNY AND BUCK WITH ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE



## Interview: DeWayne Todd

### Banzai Collector Extraordinaire

By Sean Murphy

I ran into DeWayne for the first time in May, 2018 when he posted on the [Buckaroo Banzai : Blue Blaze Irregulars Club](#) Facebook page asking for copies of old Banzai fanzines for a project he was working on. I replied that I had hardcopies of some of the fanzines he was looking for and we started talking. It turned out that he was in the Washington DC area that week for business travel, which is where I live.

After hitting the local Staples to make some copies for him, we grabbed dinner the next evening and shared our love of all things Banzai. I learned of his lifelong passion for Banzai collecting and knew immediately that I wanted to interview him for the newsletter. He graciously agreed.

**Sean Murphy:** Tell us a little about yourself.

**DeWayne Todd:** The boring stuff? I went to school for engineering and work in corporate regulatory affairs. My interests at the moment are collecting, writing, cosplay, yoga, and photography. Years ago, I self-published a comic book and have always maintained a strong interest in creative arts.

From the first time I read the description of Buckaroo living, “life as he was destined to live it... going in several directions at once,” I’ve identified with that outlook. Buckaroo is this great role model for never settling but always striving to be the best we can be.

**Sean:** When did you first see *Buckaroo Banzai* and what was that experience like?

**DeWayne Todd:** My first experience with *Buckaroo Banzai* was during its initial release in 1984. I was seventeen and a geek, having grown up on *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Alien*, *Blade Runner*, film cons, Dungeons & Dragons, and all the great classic geek stuff from the 70s and 80s.

My friends and I had heard about this “Buckaroo Banzai” movie from comic books, conventions, and magazines like *Starlog* and *Fantastic Films*. We had all been anticipating the release. In fact, some of my friends had driven several hours to see Banzai during the broader release, which was a few months before I got to see it. We lived in Southern Indiana and the local theater didn’t pick up *Buckaroo Banzai* until December as a “filler” spot just before the bigger studio releases came out for the holidays.

A group of us went to see two movies in a row on a Saturday, probably December 8<sup>th</sup>. First, we saw the sequel to *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which was *2010: The Year We Make Contact* (which, coincidentally also starred John Lithgow). After that we slipped over and watched *The Adventures of*



**DeWayne Todd**, appearing as himself in this issue.

**Buckaroo Banzai.** We spent the rest of the day, and subsequent days, talking about nothing but Banzai. Super fun from the very beginning and we sat around speculating about the Banzai universe for weeks!

Buckaroo only had a one-week screening locally, so I went home and convinced my dad that he had to see it. Immediately. So, my father and I went to see it on a weeknight which was unheard of! But hey, this was Buckaroo Banzai, right? It called for extraordinary measures.

**Sean:** What got you into collecting Buckaroo Banzai merchandise?

**DeWayne:** I’ve always been a collector, even at a young age. It started with Mego *Star Trek* and exploded when *Star Wars* came out. You name it; comic books, trading cards, books, posters, action figures—the works.

When *Buckaroo Banzai* came out, a casual competition developed to see who could get the most stuff. A few friends had picked up the novelization, which was very hard to find in bookstores. I was actually out of town, visiting family in Louisville, KY during Thanksgiving before seeing the movie and I was in a small drugstore. I wandered through the toy aisle and book section. Surprise! They had three copies of the novel and two sets of the ViewMaster slides. I bought everything they



**A bounty of Banzai goodness:** The years have brought a wide variety of Banzaibillia DeWayne's way. Here is a selection of items on display for an Owensboro, KY screening of the film hosted by Peter Weller in 2012. **Jacob Todd** keeps an eye on the collection.

had, even though I hadn't seen the movie. My mom thought I had lost my mind and it may have been an early warning sign that I had a problem!

After seeing the movie, I remember placing a large mail order for tee-shirts, posters, postcards, and an entire box of the rocket-car magic trick toys.

**Sean:** What's the world of movie collectibles like and, specifically, the world of Buckaroo Banzai collecting?

**DeWayne:** I love collecting old movie stuff. There is a lot of fascinating items out there, but the world of collectibles is very different today than it was before the proliferation of ecommerce. Access to information was very limited. Finding and obtaining rare items from movies or television shows could be a challenge.

For me, the fun thing about collecting is the history and the tangibility of owning something from that moment in time. There is nostalgia and fascination in objects from the past. Growing up, I was always attending film, gaming and comic book conventions. I would save up hundreds of dollars just for that opportunity to walk through the dealers' room, never knowing what I might find, and then discovering something I had never seen before. Back then we would haggle over the price and score some really cool things.

**Sean:** What are some of the challenges of modern day collecting?

**DeWayne:** There are many great opportunities for collectors in the information age, but there are several things that can make collecting original or unique items very frustrating as well.

The first big challenge can be authentication. Sophisticated printing devices and professional casting technologies enable unscrupulous dealers to sell reproduced items as "authentic" or "original". I've seen an "original" script copy that was only a high-quality facsimile, even though it had extra details like

stamped document control numbers and coffee stains to make the item appear authentic. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

It is important to work with reputable dealers, who have experience with or specialize in authenticated props and costumes. Always inquire about the history of an item. It is very unlikely that someone "just found" an original piece from the set of a movie in their father's garage unless their father worked on the set. There should be a clear history of ownership that tracks back to the studio sale. A few years ago, I picked up an original xenomorph head sculpt from the set of the first *Alien* movie. That wasn't cheap, but the head included documentation that traced it back to the original bill-of-sale from Twentieth-Century Fox to a large auction house, which made me feel better about buying it.

Another big challenge to collecting is coming to an agreement on the value of unique or rare items. Since there is no intrinsic value to a collectible, the price is often negotiated between buyer and seller. At the end of the day, the buyer and seller have to reach a transaction price they are both happy with, which can cause a lot of email exchanges and discussions. A collector has to make their own judgement on what they are willing to pay and know the limits of their pocketbook.

One other issue is the inability to simply hold an item when dealing with an online purchase. It's always good to be able to examine an item in detail; smell it, if you will. Someone said, "A picture doesn't lie," but I agree with Reno, "The hell they don't." If you are looking at buying something, don't be afraid to ask questions because the photograph may not show you everything. For example, I have a dozen or so of the original red and yellow headbands that were distributed by the studio around the time of Buckaroo's release. Most are in great condition but I remember a surprise when I bought a couple



**Check twice before gearing up:** A variety of headbands, patches, and buttons could be yours, but let the buyer beware. Photos for on-line sales and auctions don't always tell the whole story.



on-line. The headbands arrived in really bad shape. I think they had been stored in a garage or attic. They stank of a cat and were covered with cat hair, stains and what looked like oil residue. I wasn't very happy, but after a thorough disinfecting, I added them to my collection as "battle damaged". That was a good lesson for me on asking for details that can't be seen in the photographs. If you are really interested in an item, ask for additional photographs and specific questions on the condition of the item. Even compare the item to film clips or production stills.

**Sean:** What kind of Buckaroo Banzai material is out there for collectors?

**DeWayne:** There are really two separate categories of collectibles. First there are original items, which are rarer and harder to come by each year. Obviously, there is a limited number of those items, so they are either scooped up or lost over time. Those are the most interesting to me.

The second type of collectables are the more recent "create on demand" items that continue to appear all the time. When the movie was released there were only a handful of tee-shirts created, but now there are dozens upon dozens of styles and designs available from places like Etsy, eBay, and even Amazon. Collectors can get mugs, shirts, hats, buttons, pins, posters, patches, and some cool resin model kits fairly easily. The interesting thing about modern collectibles is how unique and outrageous they can be, but you can easily fill up a room with them.

**Sean:** What Banzai items do you come across the most?



**Frame by frame:** While issues of *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai* adaptation by Marvel comics remain easy acquisitions, the original art by Mark Texeria is much less so. This frame is taken from one of Mark's original pages for the comic book, now in DeWayne Todd's collection.



**Prized possession:** Original props from the production of a film are among the most sought after collectibles. Props are typically created in limited quantities and not necessarily built to last, like this breather vest worn by Pepe Serna's Reno during the assault on Yoyodyne.

**DeWayne:** The most common Buckaroo Banzai collectible is probably the original paperback novel, which was reissued in an oversize format a few years ago. However, the old, smaller version is pretty easy to pick up, even though it can cost some big dollars in really nice condition. Other common items are the original American one-sheet poster and, to some extent, the half-sheet. The Marvel comic books and the magazine size Marvel Super Special are easy to find and fun to collect because there are only a couple of issues and they are interesting to read in contrast to the movie.

Every collector should possess one of the original headbands that were created and distributed for promotion of the film. The headband is a replica of the one Buckaroo wears when he drives through the mountain.

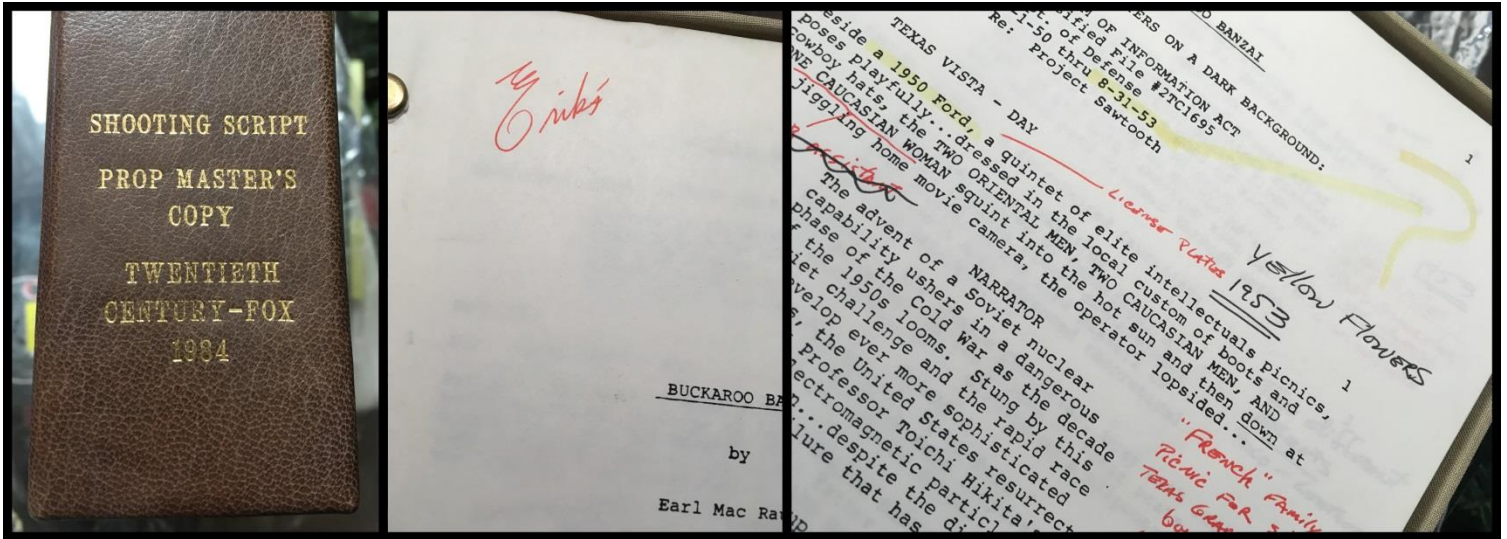
**Sean:** Tell us about your collection. What is your most prized possession?

**DeWayne:** *Buckaroo Banzai* is one of my favorite things to collect. There aren't a large number of items from the original release and I really love the thought that went into some of them.

For example, I have eight pages of the original comic book art that Mark Texeria did for the Marvel comic adaptation. He did an amazing job and it has this cheesy but dense style to it. Since the original pages are drawn in 11" by 17" format, you can really appreciate the details from the original documents.

Several of these pages are framed and hanging in my office. One of my favorites is the page that shows Penny being tortured and John O'Connor holding Secretary McKinley up in





**One of a kind:** Film collectibles generally fall into two categories; items original to the production of a film and mass produced items like commercially licensed products, promotional items produced to market a film, and fan made items created out of love for a film or a lack of available licensed products. Original items are the most prized of all, like this copy of the **TABB** script annotated by prop master Erik Nelson

the air while shouting, “This is not my lousy planet! Understand monkey boy?!” (They had to change the language for Marvel readers in the early eighties, but it is awesome!) On the same page there is a line that says, “I have placed the snott on the track!” which is a contrast to the movie line, “Put the snott on the track.”

In terms of prized possessions, I’d consider the original breather vest prop that was actually worn in the film by Pepe Serna as Reno, during the raid on Yoyodyne as my favorite. That is a great piece of movie history even if it is in rough shape. They didn’t make it to last, but I have it on display in the dining room of my house.

Another of my favorite items is the original cover art for the Moonstone comic that depicts Buckaroo, with guitar and sword, falling into a large mass of red tentacles. From the first time I saw that image by Dave Dorman on *Return of the Screw*, issue 2, I loved it. It has that old, pulp feel to it, so when Dave put it up for sale, it was a no brainer for me to buy it. I’ve always loved his work but this one is splendid and captures the adventurous heart of the character for me.

**Sean:** What is your most surprising possession?

**DeWayne:** A few years ago, I picked up the original script used by the movie prop master, Erik Nelson. This screenplay copy has a special protective shelf box, Erik’s name written on the inside, and a custom book binder with gold lettering that allows it to sit on a bookshelf. The script copy has Erik’s original notes handwritten throughout the pages, which give some fascinating insights into the thought process on props for the movie.

**Sean:** Any other interesting items?

**DeWayne:** At some point, I picked up a custom headband that was made for workers at a Doctor Who convention. It was

made in the style of Buckaroo Banzai and says, “Team Gallifrey.” It is one of my favorite obscure Buckaroo Banzai items. Unfortunately, I never got much history on this item, but the detail that went into the design is great.

**Sean:** What is the holy grail **Buckaroo Banzai** item that you are constantly searching for?

**DeWayne:** It is hard to say what the “holy grail” is because I’m always looking for things made during the original production. I would love to put my hands on some more of the original props or production artwork, because it has always been the story and design that fascinates me the most.

If there was one item that I’d most like to get a look at, it is the promotional book that Richter and Rauch put together when they were pitching the film to studios. Legend speaks of a tome [*Editor’s note: Called **The Essential Buckaroo***] that contains all the collected Buckaroo Banzai stories and pitch information in one document. It’s supposed to be hundreds of pages long.

I imagine viewing the manuscript like the scene in *Citizen Kane* where the reporter, Thompson, visits Thatcher’s Memorial Library and is granted an hour to examine the archives of the famous mogul. I’m certain that the experience of studying it would be less dramatic than the film but much more interesting than it was for the Kane reporter!

**Sean:** Tell me about your Lectoroid mask and meeting Peter Weller and Christopher Lloyd.

**DeWayne:** I’ve been a cosplayer for years. My first cosplay was a stormtrooper in the *Star Wars* costume group, the Imperial 501<sup>st</sup>. Somewhere along the way, I bought a latex mask that Chris “Captain Speky” Murray had hand sculpted of John Bigboooté. It wasn’t made to wear, but every time I looked at it



**It's my goddamn cosplay, understand monkey boy?:** In addition to collecting film memorabilia, DeWayne is an avid cosplayer and a dead ringer for John Bigbooté. Just ask Christopher Lloyd.

I thought, "Man, I want to cosplay that." I reached out to Chris to order a second latex mask, explaining that I was planning to cosplay it. He said that he didn't recommend the latex but that he could try to cast a silicon version to wear. He had never attempted it before, but as long as I was willing to fund an attempt, then he would try it (silicon is not cheap). The casting turned out to be marvelous! The texture of the mask is somewhat breathable, clammy to the touch (as a Lectorid might be) and the eyes are really creepy in person.

Since then, I've worn the Lectorid cosplay at a lot of conventions, including the DragonCon parade, which was really incredible. The parade attracts fifty to sixty thousand people in downtown Atlanta. Most had no idea who I was, but all along the route I'd hear these shouts from the crowd, "Woo! Buckaroo Banzai!" or "Go John Bigbooté!"

A few years back, I had an opportunity to set up a *Buckaroo Banzai* display at a local film con where Peter Weller appeared. The convention did a screening of **TABB** with Weller, so I just sat in the audience, in full costume, while Weller came in to introduce the movie. He loved the outfit, shouting, "There they are! Can't you see them? Evil, pure and simple from the eighth dimension!" It was splendid.

A few years later, I got to meet Christopher Lloyd at a photo op and he was crazy about the costume. This was a convention in Philadelphia, so I had to pack up the whole outfit for the plane ride and I was really nervous about something happening to the mask, but his reaction was priceless. When I walked into the

photo-op, he bent over with laughter and kept saying, "Bigbootee! Bigbootee!"

**Sean:** You organized several Buckaroo Banzai presentations at conventions in 2018. Tell us a little about them.

**DeWayne:** The first was at Anime Midwest in Chicago, IL on July 6, 7 and 8 where I talked about *Exploring the Japanese Heritage of Buckaroo Banzai*. Lots of great stuff to explore with this topic, including Buckaroo's father, his devotion to martial arts, and his Zen philosophy about life.

At the end of August, I also made a presentation for the Evansville Museum Geek & Comic-Con, on the topic of *Buckaroo Banzai: Quintessential Hero of the 80's*. This was a slide show/panel that discussed the eighties as seen through *Buckaroo Banzai*. The fashion. The hair. The music. The political chaos. Even the stereotypical view of the U.S. government, military, and Russia that was reflected in the film. The organizers were very excited about the direction of the presentation.

**Sean:** Tell me about the book you put together for the presentation.

**DeWayne:** After being accepted to do the panels, I started thinking that it would be great to have something for people to take away from the show besides the slide show. With that in mind, I've been compiling a series of articles on the topics for discussion which I'm going to turn into a print-on-demand book through one of the on-line publishing houses and have at future panels.

In addition to discussing the eighties, I have been exploring the history of the fandom itself. The strength of devotion that sprang up almost immediately with the release of the movie, and which has continued for the last 35 years, is incredible.

This is a short book (that could be expanded into something more in the coming years) that will include a collection of high-resolution images of collectibles from Buckaroo Banzai as well.

**Sean:** As a parent, how did you introduce the movie to kids?

**DeWayne:** It's funny. *Buckaroo Banzai* has always been a staple in the house, with posters and paraphernalia from the collection everywhere, so my kids have always known who Buckaroo is. When my son started high school, he observed, "I grew up believing everyone knew who Buckaroo Banzai was. That he was as common as Superman, Spider-Man, or Luke Skywalker, but then I went to school and was hanging out with my friends, I discovered that Buckaroo Banzai isn't the household name that I thought he was. In fact, absolutely no one has ever even heard of this movie."

I just nodded and commented, "I'm so proud." 🐵



## 88 Ways to Celebrate Buckaroo Banzai Day

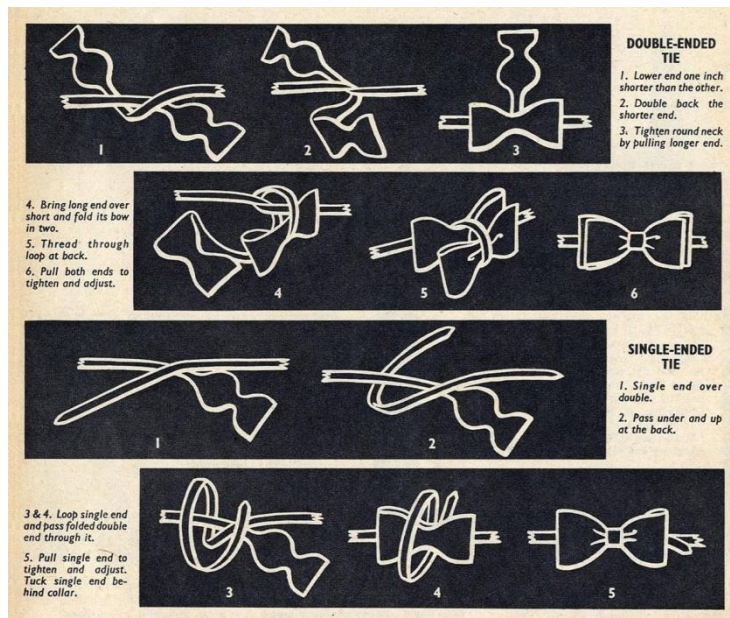
By DeWayne Todd

Over the past decade, the recognition of May 4<sup>th</sup> as a pseudo-national-religious holiday that celebrates the *Star Wars* franchise has become increasingly popular. Other holidays to celebrate fandoms have begun to arise as well: Harry Potter's birthday on July 31<sup>st</sup>; Bloomsday on June 16<sup>th</sup>, and *The Hobbit* on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. What about Buckaroo Banzai? Shouldn't there be a holiday to celebrate the monumental impact of this national hero and his devoted companions?

Since the events portrayed in *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai* occur over a two-day period, June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, it makes sense to recognize one (or both) of these days as a fandom holiday. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all take a few moments to commemorate and celebrate the life of Buckaroo Banzai and his expansive circle of friends, who are tirelessly devoted to keeping the torch of freedom alive and making the world a better place? Since June 11<sup>th</sup> was the day that Buckaroo penetrated the interdimensional barrier and shattered our notions of reality, that day should be recognized as Buckaroo Banzai Day from henceforth and forever more!

The following is a list of eighty-eight ways that members of Team Banzai and the Blue Blaze Irregulars can celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June. Please use it cautiously. These are only suggestions and this is not a checklist!

- ☐ Read sections of the Buckaroo Banzai novelization out loud to friends and family
- ☐ Have a viewing party for *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai*
- ☐ Bake a cake in shape of a watermelon and repeatedly ask, "Why is there a watermelon shaped cake there?"



#7 and #69- Wear a bowtie/Learn to tie a bowtie



- ☐ Recite, from memory, the Five Stresses, Four Beauties and Three Loves
- ☐ Visit Grover's Mill, New Jersey
- ☐ Smash a watermelon (Gallagher style!)
- ☐ Wear a bowtie
- ☐ Make a "prank call" from "the President"
- ☐ Drive to a remote location and see how fast your car will go... heading for the sound barrier... and beyond.
- ☐ Eat a Twinkie
- ☐ Drink some wine that was advertised by Orson Welles
- ☐ Wear your "Team Banzai" hat in public
- ☐ Write a short but personal essay on, "How *Buckaroo Banzai* Saved My Life..."
- ☐ Go home and do some breathing
- ☐ Use a phone booth
- ☐ Wear a pink flapper dress
- ☐ Do a brief study of bujitsu
- ☐ Take one-minute of silent meditation to remember the loss of Rawhide and Sam on this day
- ☐ Carry around a big pink cake box
- ☐ Wear a pair of tabby shoes
- ☐ Throw a harpoon
- ☐ Eat a box of Fiddle Faddle (or make your own)
- ☐ Randomly position a watermelon at a public location and wait for someone to ask the eternal question
- ☐ Search the internet for bootleg copies of the *Buckaroo Banzai* soundtrack... one more time
- ☐ Get sponged up on a little Vat 69
- ☐ Take a road trip to the Mojave Desert
- ☐ Assemble a posse at the LA aqueduct and perform a march to the end music theme
- ☐ Take a helicopter ride
- ☐ Watch an episode of Mister Wizard
- ☐ Plan a trip to replicate Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition
- ☐ Pulverize a rock and sift through it, looking for life forms
- ☐ Wear fingerless wool gloves





## #29 – Watch an episode of [Mr. Wizard](#)

- ☐ Listen to the song, *Since I Don't Have You* without crying
- ☐ Watch the movie, *Late for Dinner*
- ☐ Visit New Jersey
- ☐ Precociously shoot an 8mm film of your feet
- ☐ Ask the question, “Penny for your thoughts?” as many times as possible throughout the day
- ☐ Read an article on particle physics
- ☐ Make some “3-D” glasses out of bubble-wrap
- ☐ Tap out the Buckaroo Banzai theme on a piano
- ☐ Carry around a tuna fish sandwich in an old battered leather briefcase
- ☐ Make the ganglia TWITCH
- ☐ Wear a Team Banzai headband all day
- ☐ Put the snott on the track
- ☐ Use a View-Master
- ☐ Find someone wearing cowboy boots and inquire, “Where’re your spurs at?”
- ☐ Eat a watermelon snack
- ☐ Wear a red shirt with matching red tie
- ☐ Attend a motorcycle convention
- ☐ Go to a gun range and practice your skill with a sixgun
- ☐ Sing a little, then dance
- ☐ Hang your hat... at home
- ☐ Make a watermelon keg
- ☐ Listen to the *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast
- ☐ Practice verbally telling your body how to move with commands like, “Raise my right arm!”
- ☐ Draw the Buckaroo Banzai kanji for “Beauty in Everyday Life” in a special place
- ☐ Drink a shot of fermented mare’s milk, “L’Chaim!”
- ☐ March down the street while listening to Billy Joel’s *Uptown Girl*
- ☐ Share a Charm’s Blow-Pop with your significant other
- ☐ Decorate a Christmas tree with enough decorations to snap it

- ☐ Gather your friends and find the person that can imitate the overthruster sound the best
- ☐ Wear a ten-gallon hat
- ☐ Use more honey
- ☐ Read H.G. Wells’, *War of the Worlds*
- ☐ Try to hock your luggage at a pawn shop
- ☐ Make a collect call
- ☐ Attend a rock-n-roll concert in a seedy bar
- ☐ Take a road trip to Laramie, Wyoming
- ☐ Learn to tie a bowtie
- ☐ Make a watermelon smoothie
- ☐ Make a list of your family tree, using the title John for all the members
- ☐ Fill a cup with sugar cubes and then add coffee, then drink like a Lectroid
- ☐ Hang on to a thruster
- ☐ Find one more use for a watermelon
- ☐ Get a fix from sticking your tongue on the terminals of a 9-Volt battery
- ☐ Go duck hunting
- ☐ Make an antidote filter to allow you to see aliens as they “really are”
- ☐ Read the “latest issue” of World Watch One
- ☐ Get a crowbar out of the van
- ☐ Watch an episode of *Casper the Friendly Ghost*
- ☐ Take a picture that lies
- ☐ Take a picture that never lies
- ☐ Act like a schoolgirl
- ☐ Wear a long heavy coat
- ☐ Read a Buckaroo Banzai comic book
- ☐ Whistle the Buckaroo theme song
- ☐ Give someone your coat
- ☐ Take a moment to remember, no matter where you go, there you are



## #62 - Wear a ten gallon hat

## Buckaroo Banzai Soundtrack News!

By Sean Murphy

That sound you hear might just be hell freezing over. There is news, for the first time since the release of the film, that an official Buckaroo Banzai soundtrack may be in the works from none other than the composer Michael Boddicker. This is an unexpected turn of events since our last newsletter's article about the unfulfilled "Quest for the Official Banzai Soundtrack."

When the Five Minutes of Banzai podcast began last year (See page 3 of this newsletter), there was no indication that podcasters Josh and Brett would interview Boddicker. Not only did they score an interview, it had to be split over two podcasts since it ran almost two hours. You can find the episodes here: [Episode 21](#) and [Episode 22](#). The last ten minutes of each episode is where the most concentrated information about the Buckaroo Banzai soundtrack can be found if you'd like to dig into the meat of the information yourself.

Many areas of Boddicker's history were touched on during the podcast including stories about the musicians he's worked with and the synthesizers he's used to make music over the years. He shared the fact that he worked on scoring the film for a year, which is unheard of today when some films are scored in a matter of weeks. He also revealed that he did the sound effects for the film, including the sound of the Lectroid growl. The whole interview is worth a listen, but a highlight of the conversation was a discussion of the past and potential future of the Buckaroo Banzai Soundtrack.

### The Past

Boddicker confirmed that some of the music found on the bootleg copies of the Buckaroo Banzai soundtrack is from his demo reel of music at the time and, of course, this music is not found in the film at all. He is understandably upset that what fans of the film think of as the "Buckaroo Banzai soundtrack" is a bootleg full of unrelated music and that they have never been allowed to hear the real soundtrack.

Boddicker also said that he wrote more music for the film at the time than is heard in the film itself. He revealed that he has a two and a half hour version of the film on 3/4-inch videotape that he used to score the film. So there is Banzai music in his possession that has not been heard by the public.

He discussed a cassette of music, given to him during the film's production, that contained songs written and performed by Earl Mac Rauch. Boddicker said that he really liked the music and could still hum it today. Unfortunately he didn't discuss how many songs there were on the cassette, the song titles, or what the music sounds like. Although Rauch's music is not from the film, it is of the time period and would be fascinating to hear.

Finally, Boddicker mentioned something that came as a complete surprise. He said that he'd written, but not recorded, a



**Not the droids you are looking for:** Incomplete and apocryphal bootleg editions have defined the Buckaroo Banzai soundtrack's legacy for decades. Is an official soundtrack finally in the works?

piece of music that could act as a theme for the unmade *Buckaroo Banzai Against the World Crime League*.

### The Future

The best bit of news from the entire two hour interview was when Boddicker expressed his desire to release the soundtrack. When asked by Josh if there was anything the fans could do to help, he stated that he would have an answer for the fans within the year (2018) and will let them know what they can do to help get the soundtrack out. He has a lot of projects going on and getting this soundtrack done right will be an undertaking for him. He thinks he can be motivated to get something out in a year to a year and a half; just in time for the 35th anniversary of the film's release.

In order to release the soundtrack he'd need to pull the original tapes and transfer them to a digital medium. He needed to get up into his attic to pull the 3/4-inch videotapes of the longer cut so that he could pull audio off of them as well. He'd like to include the music that Rauch wrote and performed and asked to be put in contact with Rauch. And he'd like to record that unrecorded *Against the World Crime League* theme that he wrote at the time and add it to the album as well.

"I will," Boddicker said, "I will get it done."

So, it sounds like we'll potentially get the music from the film, music written for the film but never heard, music written by Earl Mac Rauch, and a theme for an unmade movie. Could a Banzai fan ask for anything more?

Although Boddicker did not commit to a release date for the soundtrack, he did mention that he is creating a convention called [SynthPlex](#) which will occur March 28-31, 2019 at the LA Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel & Convention Center. He said they could show the film there and talk about it during the convention as well as using it as a "jumping off place for some of this music." Although he did not say that the soundtrack would be released then and there, the convention would seem like an awesome place to debut the album.

So, only time will tell if hell really is freezing over. We'll know it's chilly down there for sure if one day we are holding the official Buckaroo Banzai soundtrack in our hands. 🐉



## Our Lunch with Rick

By Steve Mattsson

Last summer my wife, Shaune, and I took a Jack Kerouac-style trip across the United States. We chose Historic U.S. Route 20 to go “On the Road.” At 3,365 miles in length, Route 20 is the longest road in the country. It goes from Newport, OR on the Pacific to Boston, MS on the Atlantic. Since we would be starting the trip in Portland, OR, we acquiesced to the laws of symmetry by finishing not in Boston, but in Portland, ME.

Route 20 does not go past the Jet Car testing grounds in Texas or Artie’s Artery in New Jersey, but the bison herd in Yellowstone and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland did not disappoint. We found, though, that it is much better to visit people than places. The addition of the leg between Boston and Portland gave us a chance to meet someone with whom I had only communicated by email.

W.D. (Rick) Richter, the director of *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai*, had always been very cordial when answering questions about the film for the World Watch One newsletter. I wasn’t sure that this would mean that he’d be open to meeting with Shaune and me on our way through New England, but he said, “About time we stared at each other across a barroom table.” Rick suggested we meet for lunch at The Restaurant at Burdick’s in Walpole, NH. Works for us.

Shaune and I arrived early and sat at the bar wettin’ our whistles with some local beer while we waited for Rick. I had the Moat Mountain Czech Pilsner and Shaune had the Stoneface IPA. Our host, Susie Rogers was a delight. She had found a random phone number on a scrap of paper and was trying to decide if she should cold call it. Would it be business or personal? Would it be too personal to call in front of customers? We were all speculating wildly. The room went silent as she dialed the number. It turned out to be something mundane, but we



**A building full of bounty:** A shot of the barn at Woodland Farms, the Vermont abode of W.D. Richter and repository of many unique artifacts from *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai*.



**BBI Rainbow Kitty (L) and screenwriter/director supreme Rick Richter (R),** bearing the fruits of Walpole Grocery in Walpole, NH.

enjoyed sharing the thrill of the unknown for those few minutes.

Rick arrived and seemed in cahoots with Susie. I didn’t see anything, but I wonder if she gave Rick the high sign to let him know it was safe to enter.

Rick’s wife, Susan wasn’t able to join us because she was busy taking care of some details in the garden. Rick talked of his life in rural New England and how much of his time is spent mowing. Fortunately, he has heavy duty mower with extra torque and a high capacity mowing deck (or perhaps I’m just making this part up). I wasn’t able to visualize the extent of Susan’s garden or Rick’s yard work at the time, but later, when my November 2017 subscription copy of “Gardens Illustrated” arrived from England, I understood. Woodland Farms is 300 acres of dramatic landscapes enhanced with massive stone terraces and Susan’s floral gardens. Sounds like maintaining something like that would keep you out of trouble.

Shaune and I both commented on how beautiful the area was and how we could picture ourselves living here, except one thing bothered me; why were we seeing so many four-wheel drive pickup trucks with attached snowplows in the summer?



[The Restaurant at Burdick's](#) in Walpole, New Hampshire. Stop by if you're ever in the neighborhood, and tell them Rick sent you.

Rick confessed to wondering about that local affectation himself, but he said that the winters were harsh and the plows would be functional then.

After perusing the menu we were all intrigued by the skate wings, but Susie informed us that they were unavailable because, "The skate wings didn't fly" (Note: I was going to describe Susie's line delivery as deadpan, but because she had a smile on her face the entire time we were there, it wouldn't be accurate). I ordered the Tuna Burger with wasabi mayo and jicama slaw. Shaune went for the Acadian Mussels steamed with chardonnay, shallot, garlic, butter, and saffron. Shaune and I both started craving seafood the minute we got more than 100 miles away from the Pacific Ocean, so now that we had reached the Atlantic coast we weren't going to eat anything but seafood. I don't recall what Rick ordered, but I'm pretty sure it was something more terrestrial.

Rick was also interested in the wasabi mayo and consulted with Chef Wesley Babb about substituting it for the condiment included with his order. Chef Wesley, who gets paid to make these decisions, said, "No." Rick solved the problem by ordering a plate of pommes frites with a side of wasabi mayo for the table. Good call, Rick.

The conversation then turned to the latest news about Team Banzai. Rick recapped the legal issues surrounding MGM's proposed Buckaroo Banzai TV series. Then he dropped a bombshell. Rick revealed that he and xxx xxxx had come to xxxxx xxxx xxx and that they would be xxxxxxxx xxxx xxxxx xxxxx to bring a xxxxxxxx xxxxx xx xxxxx to a xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx such as xxxxxxx Rick also mentioned that xxx xxxxx

had xxxxxxxxxx x xxx xxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxx xxxx xx xxxx xxxxx xxxxxxx that was xxxxxxx xx xx xxxxx

After finishing lunch and discussing the import of what he told us, Rick gave us a tour of the building. It is co-owned by Ken Burns, the documentarian, and houses three businesses; the restaurant, L.A. Burdick's Handmade Chocolates, and the Walpole Grocery. The three businesses have a complicated interrelationship that I won't pretend to understand, but it's pretty darn cool to find them in a small town in New Hampshire. Shaune stocked up on provisions in the chocolate shop for the last leg of our road trip. Rick did some shopping at the artisan grocery store.

After posing for a couple of pictures, we said our sayonaras and skedaddled.

In interviews with the cast and crew of *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai* they are always asked variations of the question, "Why did you agree to work on this movie?" They all give a similar answer, "I was unclear on the concept, but I liked Rick so much that I wanted to work with him."

I can now confirm that Rick is, in fact, "likable" and yippee ki-yay for that or the *Buckaroo Banzai* screenplay might never have been filmed. 🐘

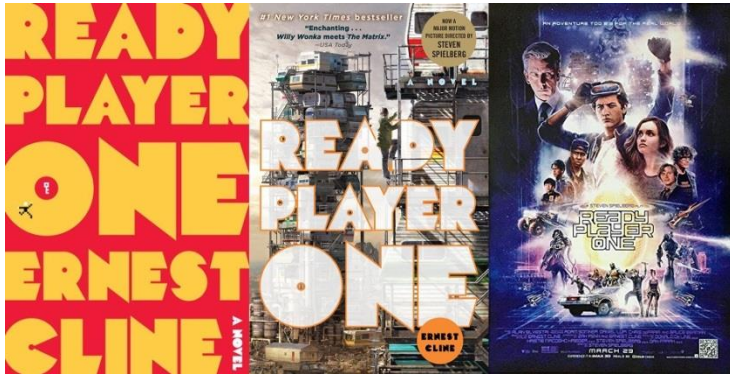


**NOTE:** Some information in this article has been redacted for Blue Blaze Irregulars with less than an Elephant Bravo clearance, but rest assured—good news is on the horizon.



## Ready Player One and Buckaroo Banzai

By Sean Murphy



When you watch *Ready Player One*, Steven Spielberg's latest film, you might be surprised to find the main character Wade Watts not only expressing his love for the film *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai*, but also dressing like Buckaroo for a portion of the film. When you realize that Ernest Cline wrote the original novel and screenplay, having Banzai appear so prominently is really no surprise at all.

The Alamo Drafthouse screened *Buckaroo Banzai* in all of their theaters during March, 2018 as part of the "Press Start to Continue - The films that inspired *Ready Player One*" series curated by Cline.<sup>1</sup> He recorded a video that was played before the screenings of *Buckaroo Banzai* and said, "*Buckaroo Banzai* is one of the weirdest, most creative movies ever to sneak its way out Hollywood. When you watch this movie, it's just hard believe that it got made with this amazing cast.

When I was a kid growing up in the 80s, *Buckaroo Banzai* was kind of everything that you could ever want to be, all crammed into one guy. Rock star/particle physicist/test pilot/brain surgeon/gentleman adventurer.

*Buckaroo Banzai* played a big role in influencing me as a writer and in *Ready Player One* the protagonist cites *Buckaroo Banzai* as his favorite film and then ends up going to a dance club dressed as *Buckaroo Banzai* in *Buckaroo Banzai*'s outfit."<sup>2</sup>

*Ready Player One: A Novel* was published on August 16th, 2011. The 400 page novel makes multiple references to the world of *Buckaroo Banzai*. The film version of *Ready Player One*, released on March 29, 2018, continues this trend. From the Amazon.com summary:

"In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtualutopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to



Ernest Cline has a long history with Banzai fandom, going all the way back to the Banzai fan website he ran as BBI Rafterman. Sadly this excellent site is no longer on the web. However, he does have his own website at [ernestcline.com](http://ernestcline.com).

Cline wrote a *Buckaroo Banzai* fan sequel script called *Buckaroo Banzai Against the World Crime League*. You can read how he came to write the script [on his blog](#) and download a PDF version of the script [on his website](#).

Cline's publicity photo shows him leaning against the ECTO 88, which is his modified DeLorean. [This is a real car](#) that he adapted to contain elements from *Back to the Future*, *Buckaroo Banzai*, *Ghost Busters*, and *Knight Rider*. This DeLorean is the basis for the car that Wade drives in *Ready Player One*. Check out Youtube for "Ernie Cline's ECTO 88 Full Car Tour" [on video](#).

studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.

But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://drafthouse.com/event/press-start-to-continue>

<sup>2</sup> You can find the entire one minute YouTube clip "Ernie Cline on THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI ACROSS THE 8TH DIMENSION" [here](#).

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.amazon.com/Ready-Player-One-Ernest-Cline/dp/0307887448/ref=sr\\_1\\_1\\_sspa?ie=UTF8&qid=1526164326&sr=8](https://www.amazon.com/Ready-Player-One-Ernest-Cline/dp/0307887448/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?ie=UTF8&qid=1526164326&sr=8)

### Buckaroo Banzai references in the novel and film

#### *Buckaroo Banzai's Outfit*

Both the novel and film versions of *Ready Player One* reference Buckaroo's outfit but there are differences in how the outfits are executed in each medium. Wade Watts has an avatar, called Parzival, in the OASIS that can change his appearance, just like characters can in many video games.

In Chapter 18 of the novel, Wade talks about adjusting the look of Parzival's clothes to resemble Buckaroo Banzai's outfit:

"I spent over an hour tweaking my avatar's hair and trying on different skins to wear to the club. I finally settled on some classic '80s-era attire: a light gray suit, exactly like the one Peter Weller wore in Buckaroo Banzai, complete with a red bow tie, along with a pair of vintage white Adidas high-tops."<sup>4</sup>



This description of Banzai's outfit comes from the end credits of Buckaroo Banzai when the team marches together.

In the film, Wade says his favorite film is Buckaroo Banzai and adjusts his Parzival avatar to look like the image of Buckaroo Banzai from the poster, even including the Team Banzai button. He hopes to impress the character Art3mis with his choice when he meets her at the Distracted Globe club, and he does when she recognizes the outfit. Ironically, Banzai doesn't actually wear this outfit in the Buckaroo Banzai film - it only appears on the poster.

#### *The Oscillation Overthruster*

The Oscillation Overthruster makes an appearance in Chapter 18 of the novel although it doesn't make an appearance in the film:

"I made a big entrance when I arrived in my flying DeLorean, which I'd obtained by completing a Back to the Future quest on the planet Zemeckis. The DeLorean came outfitted with a (nonfunctioning) flux capacitor, but I'd made several additions to its equipment and appearance. First, I'd installed an artificially intelligent onboard computer named KITT (purchased in an online auction) into the dashboard, along with a matching red Knight Rider scanner just above the DeLorean's



grill. Then I'd outfitted the car with an oscillation overthruster, a device that allowed it to travel through solid matter. Finally, to complete my '80s super-vehicle theme, I'd slapped a Ghostbusters logo on each of the DeLorean's gull-wing doors, then added personalized plates that read ECTO-88."<sup>5</sup>

#### *Team Banzai*

Team Banzai gets name checked in chapter 13 of the novel:

"As I sat under the tree, I sorted through the millions of messages still clogging my inbox. I'd been sifting through them all week. I'd received notes from people all over the globe. Letters of congratulation. Pleas for help. Death threats. Interview requests. Several long, incoherent diatribes from gunters whose quest for the egg had clearly driven them insane. I'd also received invitations to join four of the biggest gunter clans: the Oviraptors, Clan Destiny, the Key Masters, and Team Banzai. I told each of them thanks, but no thanks."<sup>6</sup>

Team Banzai gets a shout out in the film on the button Parzival wears to the Distracted Globe club.

#### *No matter where you go, there you are*

Finally, the famous Banzai quote makes an appearance in chapter 19 of the novel:

"On the floor, directly underneath my suspended haptic chair, was my Okagami Runaround omnidirectional treadmill. ("No matter where you go, there you are" was the manufacturer's slogan.)"<sup>7</sup>

Unfortunately this famous quote doesn't make it into the film.

Now the question is, will the world of Buckaroo Banzai get any references in the forthcoming sequel, *Ready Player Two*?<sup>8</sup> Only time will tell. But I'm going to bet there's a good chance. 🦋

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<sup>5</sup> Ernest Cline. "Ready Player One." iBooks.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/ready-player-one/id422540053?mt=11>

<sup>6</sup> Ernest Cline. "Ready Player One." iBooks.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/ready-player-one/id422540053?mt=11>

<sup>7</sup> Ernest Cline. "Ready Player One." iBooks.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/ready-player-one/id422540053?mt=11>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/heat-vision/ready-player-two-ernest-cline-talks-ready-player-one-sequel-1088676>

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<sup>4</sup> Ernest Cline. "Ready Player One." iBooks.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/ready-player-one/id422540053?mt=11>



# ***Team Banzai***

## **Events Calendar**

Please note all dates, locations, and other details may be subject to change. Be sure to visit the links for updates and more info.

### **SEPTEMBER**

[\*\*Mothman Festival\*\*](#) (Kick-off the night of Sept. 14, main events Sept. 15-16, Point Pleasant, WV). An annual gathering to commemorate and ponder the mysterious events that occurred in and around the small town of Point Pleasant in 1966-67. Was Mothman an alien, a cryptid, a supernatural manifestation, a misidentified owl or heron, a hoax, or something else altogether? Hear eyewitness accounts, explore the locations, and investigate for yourself!

[\*\*The Chinatown Autumn Moon Festival/Northern California International Dragonboat Festival\*\*](#) (Sept. 15-16), and a free all-day outdoor [\*\*Sumo Champions exhibition\*\*](#) (Sept. 16) at Japantown Peace Plaza, all in the San Francisco area. Tell 'em your old pal Jack Burton sent you.

[\*\*International Talk Like a Pirate Day\*\*](#) (Sept. 19). Buccaneer, Banzai!

[\*\*Monterey Jazz Festival\*\*](#) (Sept. 21-23, Monterey, CA). One of the world's largest and longest running jazz fests, donating proceeds to musical education for the past six decades. The Hong Kong Cavaliers aren't expected to perform this year, but several others will: 20 acres, 8 stages, 500 artists.

**Autumn equinox** (Sept. 22). Suggested viewing location: El Castillo, the temple pyramid at Chichen Itza in Yucatán, México, where the setting sun highlights the statue of Kukulcan. Your place or Mayan?

[\*\*West Virginia Roadkill Cook-Off\*\*](#) (Sept. 29, Pocahontas County, WV). Ingredients like squirrel and bear may be on the menu but don't let the name put you off, rules require that everything be properly handled and

prepared and fit for consumption. Work up an appetite beforehand by running the 5K Possum Trot.

### **OCTOBER**

[\*\*Kanelbullens dag – National Cinnamon Bun Day in Sweden\*\*](#) (Oct. 4). The equivalent day in the U.S. falls in April, but Mrs. Johnson always whips up a big batch of her famous sticky cinnamon buns on this date to placate the Swede, Big Norse, and anyone else who smells them. You know how fast they disappear. Swing by the kitchen early to get some!

[\*\*Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta\*\*](#) (Oct. 6-14) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Lift your spirits with hundreds of the most colorful hot air balloons you'll ever see sharing the sky. Annual fan favorite events include the Mass Ascension and the Special Shape Rodeo.

**Royal wedding** (Windsor Castle, Oct. 12). St. George's Chapel will host its second royal wedding of the year when Princess Eugenie of York, ninth in line for succession to the royal throne, marries Jack Brooksbank, wine merchant and UK brand ambassador for Casamigos, the tequila brand founded by George Clooney. Buckingham Palace and No. 10 Downing St. have informally reached out to inquire if any BBIs in the area would be willing to serve as supplemental security as needed. Tap the blue button on your Go-Phone mobile app to access the virtual sign-up sheet if interested.

[\*\*International Observe the Moon Night\*\*](#) (Oct. 20). IOtMN is promoted by NASA and other organizations to encourage appreciation, both scientific and casual, of our orbiting neighbor. Consider attending a lecture, visiting a museum or planetarium, or watching a documentary, and don't forget to go outside and look up.

**October 30 is the 80th Anniversary** of Orson Welles' infamous 1938 [\*\*War of the Worlds radio broadcast\*\*](#), the history of which is entwined with the Lectroid incursion. Turn down the lights and listen to the full recording at the link above.

### **NOVEMBER**

**U.S. midterm elections** (Nov. 6). Turn your opinions into action, let your voice be heard, and let's see those turnout numbers rise.

[\*\*Chaos Never Dies Day\*\*](#) (Nov. 9). This day is set aside to recognize that chaos is a part of our lives, touching us all every day in countless ways large and small. It's neither a blessing nor a curse, it's never personal, it just is. Just ask New Jersey's friend Dr. Ian Malcom.

[\*\*Rabechilbi Turnip Festival\*\*](#) (Nov. 12). On the shore of Switzerland's Lake Zurich, in the small municipality of Richterswil, this annual celebration elevates the humble turnip from edible root to *objet d'art* as thousands of them are carved into elaborate sculptures, many lit from within by candles, and paraded through town.

[\*\*World Kindness Day\*\*](#) (Nov. 13). Don't be mean, we don't have to be mean.

[\*\*Kartik Mela a.k.a Pushkar ka Mela, the Pushkar Camel Fair\*\*](#) (Nov. 15-23, Pushkar, India). Camels, camels, camels! Buy, sell, trade! Camel races! Camel beauty contest! The sprawling open market street festival atmosphere offers all sorts of sights and games, including dancers, oracles, snake charmers, tug-of-war competitions, and a contest to see who has the longest moustache. In addition to livestock traders and tourists, thousands of pilgrims arrive at this time to absolve their sins and cure diseases by wading in sacred Pushkar Lake.

[\*\*Lopburi "Monkey Banquet" or "Monkey Buffet"\*\*](#) (Nov. 24-25) in Lopburi, Thailand. We aren't eating our small simian cousins, we're feeding them. An estimated 3,000 macaques reside in the province, and once a year people gather at the ancient Prang Sam Yot temple to lay out offerings of fruits, vegetables, rice, and other treats in remembrance of Rama's alliance with Hanuman the Monkey King. There's a 20-bhat entrance fee at the temple – currently about 60 cents U.S. – but that includes a stick for self-defense in case any of the little fellas get too eager.

**RAINING HOLLYWOOD PRESENTS**



**AN EVENING  
ACROSS THE 8TH  
DIMENSION:  
BUCKAROO  
BANZAI**



**FEATURING IN-PERSON  
APPEARANCE BY  
LEWIS  
"PERFECT TOMMY"  
SMITH**

**THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI,  
THE HEAVENLY KID, NORTH & SOUTH**

.....

Washington State History Museum  
Friday, October 19th  
7:30pm : film screening w/ Q&A  
10pm : Meet & Greet

.....

For Tickets and More Info Visit:  
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